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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Judiciary was Bribe in Cakici case - Hurriyet
Sadr Rejects Allawi's Ultimatum - Hurriyet
Turkey to Sign Customs Agreement with Greek Cyprus -
Hurriyet
Telephone Taps Record Judiciary-Mafia Link - Sabah
Condoleezza Rice: "US Using Non-Military Methods to Eliminate
PKK" - Sabah
Cakici Supplied Materials for Villa of Court Chairman -
Milliyet
Al-Sadr Threatens US - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

US Planes Bomb Najaf - Cumhuriyet
Washington Insists on Incirlik - Cumhuriyet
Iran Threatens the US - Cumhuriyet
Appeals Court Chairman Accused of Tipping off Cakici -
Radikal
Al-Sadr Rejects Cease-Fire Offer - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Fighting Continues in Najaf: Fierce fighting erupted in
Najaf after the Shiite leader Al-Sadr defied Iraqi
Government orders to end the uprising and surrender. After
al-Sadr's refusal to vacate the holy shrine with his men, US
aircrafts and tanks reportedly opened fire in the vicinity
of the shrine. Morning news reports suggest that Al-Sadr
may have ordered his fighters to evacuate the holy site.

Captors Threaten to Kill Turkish Hostage: A terrorist group
holding a Turkish worker in Iraq threatened to kill their
hostage within three days unless his company agreed to end
its activities in Iraq. Several papers report that the
hostage's employer, the Turkish firm Tepe, announced last
night that it would pull out of Iraq.

Rice Comments on the PKK: Several papers report comments by
National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice in response to a
question in Washington concerning the PKK. Rice reportedly
said that the US is working with Turkey on all possible
methods, short of a military operation, for dealing with the
PKK threat from Iraq. She noted that the US regards the PKK
as a terrorist organization.

Judiciary-Mafia Link: "Hurriyet" reports that records from
phone taps show that Mafia leader Alaatin Cakici bribed
judicial officials in order to turn the Court of Appeals
ruling in his favor. "Radikal" reports that the chairman
of the Court of Appeals warned Cakici about his likely
arrest, thereby giving him a chance to flee the country.
"Milliyet" draws attention to the fact that building
materials used in the reconstruction of Eraslan Ozkaya's
villa were supplied by Cakici's right-hand man, Hakki Suha
Sen. Cakici had allegedly instructed Sen not to accept any
payment from the chairman for the reconstruction. "Sabah"
reports that Ozkaya continues to deny any connection with
Cakici, and many are now looking to President Sezer to
intervene in order to save the reputation of the judiciary.

Washington to Present Turkey With New Proposals for
Incirlik: "Cumhuriyet" reports that the Pentagon is working
on new proposals for Incirlik Air base. Turkey had rejected
a US request for the deployment of two F-16 fleets in
Incirlik. The US had sought flexibility in the use of the F-
16s to counter possible threats in the region. The paper
claims that Washington is working on a proposal that would
be more acceptable to Ankara. Diplomatic sources say the
new offer is expected before autumn. "Cumhuriyet"

speculates that possible proposals include a request for permission to allow U-2 planes to fly over Turkish territory, and the deployment of long-range helicopters and two divisions of US ground troops at Incirlik.

2 Americans Fined for Missionary Activities: "Milliyet" reports that four foreigners, including two Americans, were detained in Nigde (near the tourist region of Cappadocia) for distributing religious materials to local citizens. The suspects were fined 111 million Turkish lira (approximately 75 USD) each before being released.

Cyprus: "Hurriyet" cites a Greek Cypriot press report that Turkey has agreed to extend its customs union agreement with the European Union to Greek Cyprus and that the agreement will be signed this fall. `TRNC Prime Minister' Mehmet Ali Talat characterized Turkey's signing of a customs union agreement with Cyprus as `inevitable.'

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; Cyprus

"Regarding Iraq, the Address for Turkey is Washington is not Baghdad"

Zafer Atay wrote in the political-economic "Dunya" (8/20): "The visit of Iraqi interim President Al-Yawar to Ankara failed to meet Ankara's high hopes on issues like the fight against the PKK in northern Iraq, the status of Kirkuk, the Turkomen problem, and the oil-for-exports trade deal. The visit ended with zero gain for Ankara. We found an Iraqi figure ready to our requests and proposals, but one who refrained from making any commitments. ... In order to understand the reality, we should first look at the status of Iraq. Despite the `transfer of sovereignty,' Iraq is still under occupation. The US still has the full control over political and military authority in the country. Thus Turkey's requests should be addressed to Washington, not to the Iraqi administration. Washington now has enough trouble in Iraq, and has neither the time nor the enthusiasm to listen to our requests. Moreover, it is not in the US interest to meet Turkish demands. The Bush administration is trying to arrange a three-way federation system in Iraq - - Kurds in the north, Sunnis in the Baghdad area, and Shiites in the south. Washington does not want to see Ankara in this picture, knowing that Turkey is against this American plan for Iraq's future."

"The Embargo Against Turkish Cypriots"
Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal Milliyet (8/20): "Turkish officials continue to hope that the EU will eventually keep its promise and lift the embargo against Turkish Cypriots. If that does not happen, Ankara will be very disappointed and will be forced to come up with new steps based on a new reality. Such a situation would all but end hopes for a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue, and would likely lead to a tougher stance within the Turkish Cypriot administration and the Turkish Cypriot community. ... If the Greek Cypriot side does not change its current approach, and if the EU acts together with the Greek side, the Turkish Cypriots will be less inclined toward a unified Cyprus and move back to the idea of integration with Turkey idea. The Greek Cypriot administration must see this reality if it is really concerned about the divided status of the island. This goes for the EU, the US and the United Nations as well."

EDELMAN